

Ground Zero

September 2003

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Trident: the many war-headed monster

By Bob Aldridge

After a strong bureaucratic battle between the nuclear-propulsion and the strategic-missile factions of the Navy, a behemoth submarine called Trident was contrived. Admirals envisioned a fleet of a couple dozen or more, but only 18 were built. The subs carry 24 ballistic missiles each -- Trident-C-4s on the eight oldest operating in the Pacific out of Bangor, Washington, and Trident-D-5s on ten newer ones based at Kings Bay, Georgia in the Atlantic. Each missile carries eight 100-kiloton warheads and can attack as many targets. The newer D-5s can also deliver 475-kiloton devices and reach farther with more accuracy.

Trident ballistic missile submarines--the boomer boats

When the START-1 Treaty halved the number of submarine-launched strategic warheads allowed, it seemed logical to also get rid of half the submarines. President Bush Sr. actually made plans to reduce the fleet to ten. But after the Pentagon's 1994 nuclear posture review, the Clinton administration raised the required number to 14. The four oldest in the Pacific would have to go. I'll get back to those soon.

The other four in the Pacific still carried the older C-4 missiles. Navy planners soon conjured up reasons to change (backfit) those four to carry new D-5 missiles. At the same time, the service life of the submarines was extended from 30 to 42 years -- two 20-year operational stints split by a 2-year refueling overhaul. Both of these decisions resulted in extending Lockheed Martin's very profitable missile production line for another ten years.

The backfit was originally to take place during the 2-year refueling overhauls beginning in 2005. But the Navy jumped the gun and started two of the conversions in 2000 and 2001 respectively -- probably to get a foot in the door before congressional support waned and public opposition grew. Those first two will have to go right back to the shipyard again for refueling starting in 2007. Backfit of the remaining two Trident submarines will be accomplished during their normal refueling overhauls beginning in 2005.

Recently the Navy transferred two Atlantic-based Trident subs to the Pacific, leaving eight ballistic missile submarines in



D-5 missile launch at sea.
<http://lmms.external.lmco.com/photos>

the Atlantic and six now in the Pacific. That mix can be changed as conditions warrant.

The D-5 missile, along with its launching and targeting equipment on the submarine, are being continually improved. Moreover, with the military's penchant for deep-penetrating mini-nukes to surgically destroy deeply buried targets, it is not inconceivable that these boomer boats will someday have a tactical nuclear role in a regional war.

Trident guided missile submarines--stealthy battleships

Now back to the four oldest submarines being retired from strategic service -- the *USS Ohio*, *USS Florida*, *USS Michigan*, and *USS Georgia*. The most economical and the most globally-stabilizing thing to do would be decommission them and send them to the bone yard. That is not the way the Pentagon works. With Tomahawk cruise missiles becoming the weapon of choice for land combat in regional wars, the navy grabbed a bigger piece of that action with a plan to convert those four old Tridents to stealthy cruise-missile-launching platforms. With the Bush Jr. administration's aspiration for "Pax Americana," and its national security policy of "Preemptive Force," the budget became easily available to make those conversions possible.

The plan is to put seven Tomahawks each in 22 of the submarine's 24 missile tubes. That means each of the converted

Trident guided-missile submarines will be able to fire 154 conventional missiles. Not only that, it will be able to ripple-fire all 154 of those missiles in six minutes. Initially, the missiles will be Tomahawk cruise missiles but others would also work, such as the Navy's standard missile which is being modified for Star Wars scenarios. Also, these missiles could be nuclear-tipped Tomahawks, which the Pentagon still keeps as an option on submarines.

These submarines would also have dedicated accommodations for 66 Special Operations troops such as Navy Seals. Twenty feet of unused space below the Tomahawks in each of



Defense Contractors' Wet Dream!
Artist's conception of cruise missile launch from refitted SSGN Trident. <http://www.news.navy.mil>

Trident continued on page 3...

Librarians Rule!

Ground Zero papers, photos, and files to become part of the University of Washington Library's Archives

By Brian Watson

For many years, the rich history of Ground Zero has been stored away in cardboard boxes, file drawers, and binders in several locations, virtually inaccessible and unusable. Materials such as leaflets, meeting minutes, newsletters, and other primary source documents were at risk of being damaged, misplaced, destroyed, or simply thrown away.

Those irreplaceable Ground Zero materials now have a safe and accessible home in the University of Washington Library Archives.

In July, Karyl Winn and Jana Peterson of the University of Washington Division of Manuscripts, Special Collections, and University Archives met with Sue Ablao, Jackie Hudson, Elizabeth Roberts, and Brian Watson to collect a car-load of materials dating from the early 1970s to today. "We are delighted to give them an archival home where they will be used in connection with other similar collections," wrote Winn in a follow-up letter.

A graduate student intern is currently organizing and taking detailed notes about the GZ materials. They are slated for processing during 2003-04. The GZ archive will be catalogued so that researchers, historians, activists, or any member of the general public can access the original documents that record

GZ's history.

GZ's archives will join those of Seattle Women Act for Peace and the Seattle Draft Counseling Center in the UW Library.

Additional GZ materials can be added to the UW archive. If you have GZ memorabilia, such as photos, videos, audio recordings, or documents of any kind, consider donating them to the UW Library Archives so GZ's historical record can be more complete. To donate items, contact Sue Ablao at 360-377-2586 or suegzcenter@web-o.net

All this comes as a huge relief to those of us who watched over moldering boxes of old GZ stuff, not knowing what the heck to do with them. We are so glad to know that this valuable material is not only safe, but accessible to the public. THANK YOU Karyl and Jana! Librarians rule!

Do you have GZ memorabilia for the GZ Archive at the Univ. of Wash? Contact Sue Ablao at 360-377-2586 or suegzcenter@web-o.net

Brian Watson lives in Kitsap County and is beginning his new career as a work-at-home dad/artist. He continues to make sculptures and paintings in his home studio. Brian is married to Elizabeth Roberts and together they enjoyed a 3000-mile car trip this summer with their new daughter.

...UK Trident continued from page 9 (yes, the British have a Trident program too...they lease the missiles from the US. See story on page 9.)

tion and Shakedown Operations (DASO) in May and June 1994, launching two missiles. The *Victorious* fired two missiles during its DASOs in July and August in 1995. In October 1997, the *Vigilant* also launched two missiles during two DASOs. On September 21, 2000, the *Vengeance* launched a Trident II D-5 during a DASO exercise.

One of the four subs is normally on patrol. Two others are training in port or in local waters and can be deployed on relatively short notice. The fourth submarine is undergoing repair and maintenance and would require significantly longer preparation for deployment.

Each SSBN is protected by one or two hunter-killer submarines (SSNs) while en route to and from its patrol area. In fall 2000, the Royal Navy briefly withdrew all attack subs from service after the *Tireless* suffered a reactor malfunction. While other British subs were being checked for similar reactor problems, anti-submarine warfare assets (frigates, helicopters, and mari-

time patrol aircraft) were used to guard and survey transit areas around the shallow waters of the Irish Sea. British SSBN patrols are believed to be coordinated with the operations of French SSBNs.

British SLBMs are thought to carry a variation of the U.S. W76 warhead designed for Trident I C4 and Trident II D-5 missiles, enclosed in a U.S. Mk-4 re-entry vehicle (RV). Reducing the number of RVs can extend the range of a missile. In its "substrategic" configuration, for example, a missile carrying a single warhead would have a range of more than 6,000 miles.

Several factors will determine the number of warheads in Britain's future stockpile. We assume that Britain will produce only enough warheads for three boatloads of missiles, a practice it followed with Polaris. As stated in the Strategic Defense Review, there will be "fewer than 200 operationally available warheads" in the stockpile, and no more than 48 warheads per SSBN. If all four

SSBNs were fully loaded (MIRVed with three warheads) that would total 192.

A further consideration is the "substrategic mission." A Ministry of Defence official has described a substrategic strike as "the limited and highly selective use of nuclear weapons in a manner that fell demonstrably short of a strategic strike, but with a sufficient level of violence to convince an aggressor who had already miscalculated our resolve and attacked us that he should halt his aggression and withdraw or face the prospect of a devastating strategic strike."

Full text of this story available at <http://www.thebulletin.org/issues/nukenotes/nd01nukenote.html>

Nuclear Notebook is prepared by Robert S. Norris and William M. Arkin of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Hans M. Kristensen of the Nautilus Institute, and Joshua Handler. Inquiries should be directed to NRDC, 1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C., 20005; 202-289-6868.

the 88-inch diameter missile tubes could be used to store special operations gear and other equipment. The two remaining missile tubes on each sub would be used as air locks for the Special Operations troops to leave the sub with rubber rafts, or to enter miniature submarines -- either a 4-person Advanced SEAL Delivery System or an 8-10 person Dry Deck Shelter with its own propulsion and environmental system. One of each or two of either would be carried piggy back outside the Trident hull above the air-lock tubes.

Variants of the Trident guided-missile submarine loading scheme include launching a 4-foot-long, 10-foot-wingspan unmanned aerial vehicle called Scan Eagle. It can fly 500 miles for reconnaissance and surveillance. The submarine will also have equipment to recover these vehicles. Another variant is to deploy a battery-powered Seahorse unmanned underwater vehicle to map routes through mine fields, plant sensors on enemy soil, or send supplies to commandos already on the beachhead. This vehicle, which is 38 inches wide and almost 30 feet long, can be recovered and then redeployed after the batteries are recharged. The Navy is conjuring up many more tricks for these converted Trident subs to perform.

Conversion of each sub will take two years and will be accomplished during the refueling overhaul. About half way through refueling, the conversion will commence. Total time in the shipyard for each ship will be three years. Then there will be a period of recertification and crew training.

The *USS Ohio* and the *USS Michigan* will be refueled and converted at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington state, and then remain in the Pacific.

The refueling/conversion of the *USS Florida* and *USS Georgia* will take place at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Northrop Grumman's Newport News Shipyard respectively -- both in Virginia -- and then be based in the Atlantic. All four of these subs will be operational as Tomahawk launch platforms by 2008.

Conclusion--hope for the future

Trident D-5 missiles are the backbone of America's nuclear arsenal and have become the "enforcer of foreign policy." Trident missiles, the ultimate first-strike weapons, back US diplomatic efforts. They are the threat of retaliation if Western interests are too seriously threatened, and they are the insurance against unacceptable resistance when Western troops step in to protect those interests.

Regarding Tomahawk missiles, the Pentagon has stated: "Because of its long range, lethality, and extreme accuracy Tomahawk has become the weapon of choice for the US Department of Defense." But Tomahawk missiles destabilize the opportunities for international peace and harmony. This instability reaches from treaty verification and missile proliferation



Trident missile tubes open at Kings' Bay Subbase, GA.
<http://lmms.external.lmco.com/>

to giving the US an itchy trigger finger and immunity from foreign basing constraints.

Both of these weapons are having a much more subtle and extremely devastating effect on America's culture. People tacitly accept that it is OK to bully weaker nations if that sustains our lifestyle. It is considered acceptable to wage a war as long as there are no, or very few, American casualties. In effect, the American people now tolerate a permanent state of war. The culture of violence is brewing in our country with a particularly devastating effect on our younger generation. This culture of violence took a savage turn for the worse after the 9/11 terrorist



Tinkering with Armageddon
D-5 (left) and C-4 (right) missiles.
<http://lmms.external.lmco.com/photos>

attack. Fanned by the flames of indignant nationalism, the people of this country have approved wars that are engulfing the world. The killing fever is high. We have sold our civil liberties in order to prove that we are the world's biggest bully. We have sacrificed our human dignity in order to protect our selfish arrogation of this planet's resources.

The greatest advantage of all from scrapping Trident will be helping to restore feeling and compassion and reason to America's sensibilities, now seemingly

numbed by the perceived expediency of a military solution. People have been and will continue to be bombarded with propaganda advocating bigger and better weapons. They have been intimidated on everything from jobs and the economy to national security, from protecting our vital interests to saving the huge investment in Trident by spending more money.

Nevertheless, it is in these same people where hope lies. They are the roots of democracy and they are the ones who will bring change for the better. They are already waking up to how they were deceived about Iraq. That is not the end of the deception. Trident in all its nuances is another. It will be through contact with the American people, and motivating them in the right direction, that Trident resisters will have the most success. It will take resourcefulness, ingenuity, perseverance, knowledge, integrity and many other positive traits to sway public opinion away from false delusions and back to hope for the future.

There will be rewards reaped, however, from stopping Trident. The greatest of these is the reward of reducing and someday eliminating the culture of violence that has infested our society, and of achieving a wholesome atmosphere in which our children and grandchildren can grow. This whole wasteful, dangerous, unnecessary, and immoral process of the Trident system is

Bob Aldridge is a former Trident missile designer. Bob established Pacific Life Research Center (PLRC) to improve public understanding of military activity and US policy. His papers, which cover this subject in much more detail, are posted on his website www.plrc.org.

Nagasaki Day 2003 protests at Ground Zero:

"I finally did it!" From working at Bangor to blocking the road to it

By Mona Lee

During the late 70's and throughout most of the 1980's, I was raising two children on a small farm on the shore of Hood Canal just outside the Trident base at Bangor, Washington. The Bangor fence bordered our land on two sides. Our dream of subsistent farming was never realized, of course. In fact, when a Ground Zero flotilla of small boats bravely embarked upon the waters to confront the first Trident Submarine, I was earning my living as a civilian training specialist for the Navy. Even then, my heart was in the boats, not in my office, where I sat eagerly listening to news of the blockade. It was an amazingly brave act, a statement of courage against an absurd nuclear arms race that seemed certain to have disastrous consequences to all forms of life on this planet.

Soon I began attending meetings at Ground Zero where I received a pretty good education in Ghandi's principles of Ahimsa and Satyagraha. I learned that Ghandi saw nonviolent action as not merely passive resistance, but a powerful tool. Jim and Shelly Douglass pointed out that violence used against an oppressor was not only wrong, but a serious mistake. Violence could never really end violence or injustice because it inflamed the prejudice and fear that fed oppression. Ground Zero taught Ghandi's principle that using violence against a governmental authority would justify in their minds a harsh response. On the other hand, if resistance actions remained peaceful and highly disciplined, even in the face of possible suffering and reprisal, the eyes of the government authorities and the public might be opened and their sympathies aroused toward the cause. Later I watched with awe and reverence during the tracks campaign when brave folks sat down calmly in front of trains shipping nuclear warheads into the base. My heart and soul were with



Mona Lee at Ground Zero in August 2002.
Photo by Brian Watson.

them.

I listened with great interest when Jim and Shelly explained that the potential of Satyagraha to change an opponent's position came from the dependence of governments on the cooperation of those who had the choice to obey or resist. Governments need some type of cooperation from its people that can be massively withdrawn or withheld, and that can actually constitute a powerful resistance strategy. For example, if we bureaucrats would just stop processing paperwork to make possible this terrible doomsday machine, it would crumble. Still, the decision to quit my job took a couple of years, for I knew there would be hundreds lined up eager to take my place.

Even after I quit my job with the Navy and took up a more productive career as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, I never had the courage to be arrested with my friends at Bangor. I feared the consequences and was unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices. What if I got put in jail or had to go to court? What would I tell the

boss?

Finally, just a few weeks ago, several months after retiring from my job with the State of Washington, I finally stood with dear old friends in the roadway blocking entrance to the Trident Base at Bangor and was arrested for the first time. It was not a brave deed. The consequences to me will probably be minimal. The real heroines are those like Jackie Hudson, Ardeth Platte, and Carol Gilbert who perform really brave actions and face serious consequences. My love and gratitude go out to them.

*Mona Lee was one of those arrested at the gates of Bangor on Nagasaki Day 2003. She is the author of the novel *Alien Child*. If you're interested in reading or buying her book, please contact her Mona_Lee@comcast.net*

9 Peace Activists Arrested at Bangor on Nagasaki Day 2003

Nine people were arrested at the Bangor Trident Submarine Base on August 9, 2003 in a nonviolent direct action against nuclear weapons and the Trident nuclear weapons system.

40 people were present at the demonstration commemorating the second atomic bomb used against civilian populations, on Nagasaki, Japan August 9, 1945. Demonstrators carried signs stating "Nagasaki 1945-2003 Never Again" and "No genocide in my name" onto the highway blocking the entrance to the base.

One of the citizens arrested, Mona

Lee of Auburn, Washington, had worked at U.S. Navy facilities and at the nuclear Strategic Weapons Facility at the Trident submarine base at Bangor from 1978 until she resigned for reasons of conscience in 1982. In a trial of Trident protesters in 1985, Mona Lee had testified that their actions had influenced her to resign from her job at the nuclear weapons facility at Bangor.

Those arrested: Mary Gleysteen, 55, of Kingston; Lynne Greenwald, 54, of Bremerton; Alice Zillah, 30, of Olympia; Barbara Hill, 55, and Michael Hill, 60, of

Elbe; Ellen Kohjima, 52, of Auburn; Joy Goldstein, 68, of Vashon; Mona Lee, 64, and Glen Milner, 52, of Seattle, Washington.

All of those arrested were booked by the Kitsap County Sheriff and released. If formally charged, it would be the first attempt to prosecute nonviolent demonstrators since February 2000.

The next planned direct action at Bangor will be the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in January 2004.

Jackie speaks out before sentencing

Plowshares nuns sentenced; vigils blossom at CO missile silos

Editor's Note: Below is the address Jackie Hudson delivered to over 200 people and dozens of media outlets prior to being sentenced in Denver, CO on July 25, 2003.

By Jackie Hudson

Well, today is the day. It holds many unknowns as regards the judgments/decisions of Judge Blackburn.

Yet it holds many knowns...the continued presence of nuclear weapons—latest figures list the U.S. ownership at 10,455.

- a president in office who has stated publicly that he would use these weapons—in violation of multiple treaties, charters, conventions and protocols.
- a national budget that would allow these weapons of mass extermination to be multiplied and present ones upgraded.
- millions of people world-wide who do not have sufficient food, shelter, education and health care, and who lead lives of survival.
- U.S. cities legislating against the homeless.
- a country where 1 in every 32 of its adults is in prison, on parole, or probation—basically a warehousing of its poor.
- and we three are threatened that we will raise the numbers of incarcerated today, for 6, 7, or 8 years.

Stiff sentences for the nuns; Resistance grows to nuclear missiles

The sentences for Jackie Hudson, Carol Gilbert, and Ardeth Platte were not as long as Judge Blackburn could have made them. **The hundreds of letters sent in support of these women made a difference!** But these women should not be in prison at all. They actually *found* weapons of mass destruction. How about a ticker-tape parade?

Jackie was sentenced to 30 months; Carol to 33 months; Ardeth to 41 months. They will get credit for the 8 months they've already spent in jail, but once they get "out," they will be on supervised release for 3 years, will be assessed \$3,080.04 restitution, and are to stay off all military bases. Needless to say, these sentences are cruel and unusual for women who are heroes.

Ironically, the sentences have not deterred direct disarmament actions. The day after their sentencing, over 500 people from across the US and world went to vigils at all 49 Minuteman III missile silos in CO, as well as to silo G-6 in Montana and three silos in Nebraska. At these vigils, the seeds for future Plowshares actions were planted.

Write to these brave women:

Jacqueline Hudson
#08808-039

Federal Prison Camp,
Victorville
PO Box 5100
Adelanto, CA 92301

Ardeth Platte
C/o Jonah House
1301 Moreland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21216

Carol Gilbert
C/o Jonah House
1301 Moreland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21216

In speaking around the country people often asked, how can the U.S. court system prosecute us and manipulate a jury, to find the three of us guilty of a crime we never committed and that the prosecutor states he is not charging us with. We



Jackie Hudson takes her turn at the microphone on July 25, 2003 near the steps at the Federal Courthouse in Denver, CO. Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert are in the far left of the photo. Photo by Brian Watson.

truthfully testified on the stand during the trial exactly what we did at Minuteman III missile silo site labeled N-8. We went to that specific silo to inspect, expose, and symbolically disarm one of our 10,455 nuclear weapons, and to declare it a crime scene. We went to that site to uphold the law of the United States of America as stated in the U.S. Constitution, Article 6, Section 2 which states that any and all treaties signed by the U.S. government become the supreme law of the land, superceding any and all local, state or national laws.

We went to the silo because of a burden of knowledge. We have studied the various treaties declaring the threat to use or the use of nuclear weapons as illegal. I refer today to the Nuremberg Principles and the Tokyo Tribunal which our government was principally responsible for writing after WWII. They declare that:

"Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligation of obedience...Therefore [individual citizens] have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring." (from the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, 1950)

We brought evidence to prove that our action was legal. Two eminent International Law professors testified on the stand at our motions hearing that what we had done was legal and that we should be released from our jail cells in Clear Creek County [Jail, Georgetown, CO].

Judge Blackburn has been given ample opportunities including a post-trial motion to acquit us of both charges and has refused to do so to this point. What he will do this morning... who knows?

We will enter the courtroom in silence praying for peace on this Earth and silently repeating our mantra, *"O God, teach us how to be peacemakers in a hostile world."*

Jackie Hudson is a member of the Ground Zero community, even when exiled in prison. May her example inspire us all to take risks for peace.

Trident resistance around the US

Wisconsin:

Arrests of inspectors at Navy's ELF site

By Bonnie Urfer and John La Forge

CLAM LAKE, Wisconsin - Twelve people were cited for trespass, including two who were jailed overnight, after they attempted to conduct a citizens' inspection of the Navy's Project E.L.F. submarine transmitter near here yesterday, the 58th anniversary of the U.S. atomic attack on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

All 12 were given an Oct. 14 court date in Federal Court in Madison for arraignment on trespass charges. The two held in jail were also charged with obstructing an officer.

About 75 people gathered at the remote "extremely low frequency" transmitter to commemorate the August 9, 1945 bombing which killed 70,000 people.

The facility, secluded in the Chequamegon National Forest in North Central Wisconsin, sends one-way messages to submerged British and U.S. submarines around the world.

Dressed in hardhats and carrying clipboards, the 12 read a statement of intent to the eight or nine police officials guarding the facility before walking under a wooden gate onto the federal property. The group demanded "unfettered access" to the compound, just as U.S. and UN inspectors demand of other countries suspected of concealing weapons of mass destruction.

The Trident submarines that receive E.L.F. messages can each carry 192 hydrogen bomb warheads -- eight each on 24 missiles. Each warhead can be as much as 32 times the power of the atomic bomb that incinerated Hiroshima. The U.S. maintains 18 Trident submarines. [Ed. Note: see article pg. 1 & 3 about the conversion of the 4 oldest Trident submarines.]

Those ticketed were: Elizabeth Garcia, Sheila Provencher, Kitty Ufford-Chase, Matthew Chandler, Kryss Chupp, Rose Whiteside, Haven Whiteside, Mortimer Cushman, Muriel Fitzgerald, Catherine McClean, Pat Basler, and Ozone of Duluth, Minnesota.

Garcia and Provencher were taken into custody at Ashland County Jail for refusing to give their names to arresting officers. They were released Sunday, August 10, at 10:00 a.m.



Weapons inspectors are commissioned at ELF. Photo courtesy Bonnie Urfer.

Sentences for the federal trespass conviction have ranged from a fine of \$50, to 60 days in federal custody. Forty-four anti-war activists have been charged in Federal District Court since Sept. 2001, when the Ashland County District Attorney decided to stop bringing local charges against the protesters. The maximum penalty is a \$5000 fine and six months in prison.

Bonnie Urfer and John La Forge live and work on Anathoth Farm in Luck, WI. They are organizers with Nukewatch. Contact Nukewatch 715-472-4185 or www.nukewatch.com for more information or to sign-up for their informative newsletter.

Washington:

Plucky Peace Armada meets Navy Seafair Fleet

By Marilyn Bode and Glen Milner



Eleven peace activists in four boats met the U.S. Navy in Elliott Bay at Seafair this year. While finally establishing First Amendment freedoms on the water, activists made a strong statement against the glorification of weapons of war.

Peace boats met the destroyer, USS John Paul Jones; frigate, USS Ford; and hospital ship, USS Mercy on July 30 in Puget Sound around 2 pm and entered Elliott Bay with the fleet. The two warships were equipped with the Close-In Weapons System, the same gun system used to fire depleted uranium bullets off the Washington State coast.

In a similar protest at Seafair in

2000, a Ground Zero boat was stopped by the Coast Guard and ordered out of Elliott Bay with the arrival of the Trident submarine, USS Alabama. This year, Coast Guard, Navy and Police boat officers were courteous and respectful of our rights. We traveled with Navy vessels along the downtown waterfront.

Peace sailors this year were Rodney Brunelle, Tom Krebsbach, and Don Engelbach in their 16' outboard; Anne Hall, Mike McCormick and Glen Milner in a similar boat; Neal and Bobbie Liden and Marilyn Bode in a Boston whaler; and Mary Gleysteen and Bryan Shrader in Bryan's custom sailing skiff. Police officers were content with reminding peace boats to stay



Mary Gleysteen and Bryan Shrader greeting the fleet in Bryan's custom sailing skiff on Elliot Bay. Photo courtesy Mary Gleysteen.

Plucky armada continued on page 7...

And MORE Trident resistance around the US

...*Plucky armada* continued from page 6

500 yards from the warships.

While waiting for the Navy fleet arrival, some peace boats cruised the waterfront displaying earth and peace flags, and signs stating "No More War", "Impeach Bush", and "USN=WMD", and a banner which read "Danger! Navy has weapons of mass destruction."

The Seattle press made the connection with our presence in Elliott Bay and the Navy's use of depleted uranium. Mike Barber, in the July 31, 2003 Seattle Post-Intelligencer, stated, "The ships dwarfed a small but game party of protest boats carrying peace activists from Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. A news release said the nonviolent protest was 'against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair' and drew attention to depleted uranium, a dense byproduct of enriched uranium from which ammunition on Navy warships is made..." At least one television station showed Bryan Shrader's boat and banner declaring the Navy's weapons of mass destruction.

In our small boats, it would have been easy to be intimidated. The contrast between the peacefulness and beauty of a sunny day on the water and the menace of Navy warships could have been overwhelming, but our solidarity and conviction made our action one of hope and commitment. We'll be back at Seafair next year--please join us!

And even though the Navy will not say, we think the U.S. Navy fleet will arrive again on August 4, 2004. Beat the Seafair blues and meet the fleet next year!

Marilyn Bode is a print maker and grandmother. She helps sell organic vegetables at the Kingston Farmers' Market and was a faithful participant in the peace vigiling from Sept. 2001-March 2003. Glen Milner is a member of the GZ Stewardship Council and does awesome research on legal issues related to Trident, the Navy, and peace. He helped organize this year's Peace Armada. Want to have some REAL Seafair fun and meet the fleet in 2004? Contact Glen at gkaajim@juno.com.

Utah:

Striving to stop the bomb

By Deanna Taylor

Alliant Action Utah (AAU) is a group dedicated to protesting the production of Trident motor missile parts at the Alliant Tech System's (ATK) Magna/West Valley facility. In addition, members of AAU will be thinking of creative solutions to suggest to the management of



Standing (and sitting) in vigil at Alliant Tech's Trident missile motor plant in Utah. L to R: Dick Wunder, Cindy Burr, Deanna Taylor, Diana Lee Hirschi, Tom King. *Photo courtesy Deanna Taylor.*

ATK. AAU members are also working to meet with employee union representatives to explain why vigils occur at the gate. Participants want to assure the workers that they want them to have safe jobs making civilian products, not military weaponry.

AAU members met in April with ATK PR Director, David Nicponski, who offered incomplete information about what the Utah facility actually manufactures. Through independent research, it was discovered by AAU members that ATK in Utah continues to produce parts for the Trident missile motor.

ATK is a \$2 billion aerospace and defense company with leading market positions in propulsion, composite structures, munitions, and precision capabilities. ATK was the largest supplier of anti-personnel landmines to the Department of Defense (DoD), to name one example of their activities. ATK has also supplied over 16 million rounds of Depleted Uranium munitions to the DoD.

AAU will be conducting monthly vigils, the first Wednesday of each month, at the Magna/West Valley ATK facility at the main gate, 5000 South 8400 West, from 7am - 8am. AAU stands in solidarity with Minnesota Alliant Action, a group that has held weekly vigils, protests, and civil resistance actions at the corporate ATK headquarters in Minnesota for seven years.

The participants in AAU are dedicated activists with varying experiences in the Salt Lake region. Ranging from age 22 - 65, participants have engaged in demonstrations around peace and nuclear issues, including civil resistance resulting in arrest. Diana Lee Hirschi, one of those arrested in 1990, says: "There is a connection between the bomb in our hearts and the bomb in our backyard. I stand in witness of my willingness to take responsibility for diffusing both."

August's focus was Hiroshima Day. Each month AAU plans to have a new theme.

Deanna Taylor is a member of Alliant Action Utah. For more information, visit www.utahpeace.org/aau.html, email deesings@xmission.com or call 801-631-2998.

King's Bay Trident Subbase, Georgia: Lest we forget Nagasaki

By John X. Linnehan

Forty nine anti-nuclear advocates and one peace dog were present for the three hour demonstration, August 9, at the main gate to the King's Bay Trident Base. This was the annual gathering of the 'From Trident To Life Campaign in the Southeast' to remember the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 58 years ago.

Activists from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina traveled

Georgia resistance...continued on page 8

to the East Coast home port for 8 Trident submarines to raise the question, as the leaflet said, "Of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in our own backyard!" In addition, a young woman from England and a young local woman whose father worked on the base joined the demonstration. Ages ranged from 18 to 93. Many rainstorms were in the area but the demonstrators remained dry.

A letter from John X. Linnehan of Jacksonville and one of the organizers had been mailed to the Base Commander, Captain John Cohoon, USN, asking him to come to the gathering at First Amendment Park to report to this group of concerned citizens the status of WMDs on King's Bay. The letter stated in part, "We believe that we have the right and the duty to make this request of you. Since 9/11, national security begins at home!"

Captain Cohoon did not show, but approximately 20 young men in civilian clothes but obviously off-duty military arrived at the intersection with a sign, "More Nukes." The organizers cordially greeted the group and invited them to join the closing circle where they would be free to express their opinions. The young men asked for and received permission of the organizers to stand on one of the four corners of the intersection.

Shortly after the counter-demonstrators had finished a military chant, two men in military uniforms and one city policeman had a discussion with the young men which resulted in their returning to their automobiles and departing the public parking area.

The demonstration continued without incident until 5:30 PM when a young man in recreational military attire stepped into the closing circle and identified himself as Marine Sergeant *blank* (name withheld for his protection). He said that he was the squad leader of the men and fearful that they would be punished for their actions.

The Marine Sgt. then asked for the help of the peace group. He requested that someone from the group accompany him on to the base to tell the authorities that the Marines did not harm anyone or cause any trouble.

"The next time someone tells me that soldiers are in Iraq protecting our freedom, I will tell them about today when peace people stood up for the freedom of soldiers to come out and voice their opinions."

-- Robert Randall, Brunswick, GA

At this point the base security people were yelling almost hysterically at the Sergeant to leave the circle and return to the base. The peace group quickly decided to send John X. to deliver the message that they had no problem with the Marines coming to the demonstration and that no punishment need be given on their account. The base security people regained their composure and listened politely to the message

without comment.

In the de-briefing that took place after a communal meal at a local restaurant, various opinions, pro and con the Marines



Look familiar? Nagasaki vigil at the Stimson (Main Gate) intersection in front of Naval Submarine Base King's Bay, GA.

Photo by John X. Linnehan.

were voiced. Robert Randall, long time Trident resister from Brunswick, Georgia shared this reflection: "A truth was revealed to me today. Usually when a truth is revealed, a lie is put to rest. The next time someone tells me that soldiers are in Iraq protecting our freedom, I will tell them about today when peace people stood up for the freedom of soldiers to come out and voice their opinions. "

Before leaving the area, the six-member group from Savannah, Georgia took a poster-sized copy of the letter to Captain Cohoon which had been signed by all at the demonstration to the guard house at the Franklin Gate. After a short period of waiting in the parking lot, an officer took the letter and assured them that it would be delivered to the Commanding Officer.

John X. Linnehan is a long-time Trident resister with the Metanoia Community in the Southeast. Contact him at 904-262-5071 metanoia1@earthlink.net.

"In the 1960's, Thomas Merton wrote to Daniel Berrigan: 'On the day a given general or chief of state decides to push the button on the human venture, we must understand that his act will lie within the law. For we must understand that the end of the world will be legal.'"

—John Dear, Peace Behind Bars: A Peacemaking Priest's Journal from Jail, p. 161

Resistance in Scotland to British Trident...

Trident Ploughshares movement rocking nuclear boats

By David Mackenzie

Britain's Trident is much more of a public issue in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK. This is partly because the four Trident submarines are based at Faslane-on-the-Clyde and armed at Coulport and partly because Scotland's sense of a separate identity has increased

with the partial devolution that came in 1999. The growth in direct action against the system since 1998 is particularly significant. High profile actions, like the disarmament of the research barge Maytime in 1999 by the Trident Three and the series of highly successful mass blockades at Faslane, have increased public awareness and promoted media debate. There is an incessant parade of peaceful protesters through the local courts and regular short prison terms. Three of the political parties with members in the Scottish Parliament have an anti-Trident position, and in 2001 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland enhanced its traditional anti-Trident policy with an encouragement to people to take part in nonviolent civil resistance. There is also informal and discreet feedback from within the system itself which strongly suggests that our resistance is having an impact.

The challenge is to maintain and increase that pressure. Inevitably and rightly, anti-Trident activists are involved in a whole array of peace and justice campaigns, including Star Wars, depleted uranium, human rights in Israel/Palestine - to say nothing of Iraq



(Not) Playing Dead: Trident Ploughshares activists dramatize the effects of Trident in the road to the Faslane Submarine Base in Scotland. Such mass direct actions against Trident are frequent in Scotland. *Photo courtesy of David Mackenzie.*

and the subsequent targets. To date we have managed to keep all these balls in the air and have been able to highlight Trident's key position within that catalogue of horrors, but it could so easily slip. Further, many of our activists are bailed or have outstanding warrants that they are not so free to risk arrest in direct actions and the challenge is to keep encouraging others to join in.

So here we are, right now, in the middle of a two-week disarmament camp at Coulport. There are about 50 of us here, from as far afield as Finland and Sweden, and the aim is to cause as much disruption as possible. We have been cutting into the bases, blocking the gates and doing graffiti work to remind passers-by of what is going on. As I write, five people are locked-on at Faslane, holding up the morning shift. The really good news is the number of people here who are new to the campaign and bringing with them fresh energy, enthusiasm and perspectives. The work goes on.

David Mackenzie is a spokesperson for Trident Ploughshares. Contact them at www.tridentploughshares.org.

Holy nuclear proliferation! A primer on UK Tridents

From *Nuclear Notebook*, 2007

The first submarine of Britain's new *Vanguard* class began its first patrol in December 1994. The second submarine, *Victorious*, entered service a year later. The third, *Vigilant*, was launched in October 1995 and entered service in fall 1998. The fourth and final submarine of the class, *Vengeance*, was launched September 19, 1998, and commissioned on November 27, 1999, at the Marconi-Marine Shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness. The Royal Navy announced in February 2001 that the *Vengeance* entered operational service with the First Submarine Squadron and has begun patrols. The submarine has a total complement of 205 men, which includes a ship's company of 130 men while on patrol. The current estimated cost of the program is \$19.8 billion.

Each *Vanguard*-class SSBN carries 16 U.S.-made Trident II (D-5) submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). The United States and Britain share a pool of SLBMs kept at the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, King's Bay Submarine Base, Georgia. Although Britain has title to 58 SLBMs, technically it does not own them. A missile deployed on a U.S. SSBN may at a later date be deployed on a British sub, or vice versa.

British submarines conduct their missile flight tests at the U.S. Eastern Test Range off Florida. The *Vanguard* conducted two successful Demonstra-

UK Trident cont. on page 2...

The editors of this issue of the Ground Zero newsletter were Elizabeth Roberts, Brian Watson, and Lisa Johnson. We offer our sincere thanks to all the contributors to this issue from across the US and in Scotland. We welcome your news, photos, graphics, and story ideas. Want to contribute? Contact info@gzcenter.org.

Depleted Uranium story voted 15th most censored in 2004

The US military's assault against nature continues (to be silenced); activists refuse to shut up

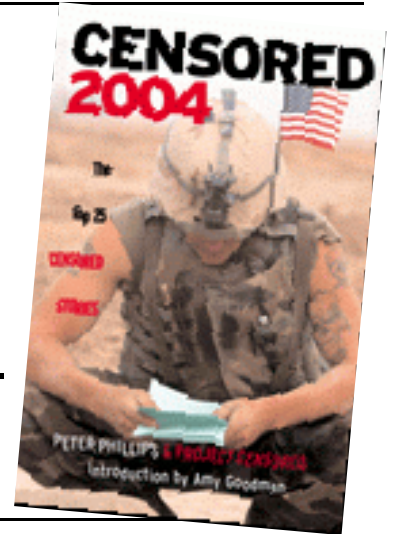
The depleted uranium story written by David S. Mann and Glen Milner in the Sept. 2002 Washington Free Press was chosen by Project Censored judges as the 15th most under-reported story for its latest book, Censored 2004.

For the past 26 years Project Censored has been instrumental in helping to push underreported stories into the mainstream. Censored 2004 highlights the year's twenty-five most important underreported news stories,

alerting readers to deficiencies in corporate media. .

Project Censored, founded in 1976 by Carl Jensen, has as its principal objective the advocacy for and protection of First Amendment rights and the freedom of information in the United States. With an introduction by *Democracy Now's* Amy Goodman, Censored 2004 will be available in October 2003. It is published by Seven Stories Press.

Congratulations Dave and Glen!



Depleted Uranium part of larger US military effort To abolish environmental protections

By David S. Mann and Glen Milner

Since our depleted uranium article appeared in the Washington Free Press in September 2002 there have been numerous attempts by the U.S. military and the Bush administration for military exemptions from environmental law. In a rare defeat, the Pentagon failed in 2002 to win concessions from Congress for exemptions from the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act and other environmental laws.

A December 10, 2002 document, *Sustainable Ranges 2003 Decision Briefing to the Deputy Secretary of Defense*, unleashed a three year campaign to systematically exempt all U.S. military activity from every perceived environmental restriction. Included in the briefing is a "2002 Lessons Learned" section, citing the need for better quantification of encroachment impacts and a sustained aggressive campaign addressing concerns of the GAO and Congress. Other targeted critics are state attorneys general, media, industry and non-governmental organizations.

In a March 7, 2003 memo, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz asked the Army, Navy and Air Force secretaries for examples of military readiness hindered by compliance to environmental law. Even though current law has never been used, allowing the President to invoke environmental exemptions deemed necessary for national defense, the Bush administration continues to seek further exemptions.

Other attempts for environmental exemption for the military have been less than

obvious. An April 2003 proposal by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, *"The Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act,"* suspended whistleblower protections for Department of Defense personnel. In another, an executive order from President Bush is being considered establishing the Department of Defense as the first among equals in any disagreement between agencies. Added to this are new restrictions on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and a reduced budget for the Environmental Protection Agency for FY 2004.

The U.S. military is unquestionably the biggest polluter and environmental violator on the planet. Efforts for environmental justice continue.

In the Pacific Northwest, we have begun a mix of public education and legal action concerning the U.S. Navy and environmental compliance. We have found that coalitions of long-time "peace" and "environmental" organizations make effective action groups.

In March 2001, two environmental organizations and three peace organizations filed a 60 Day Notice against the Navy's Trident II (D-5) missile upgrade at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington. The case, by David Mann, is now in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals with a decision expected in Fall 2003.

Two other lawsuits involving David Mann and Glen Milner and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) have gone to court.

In the first, filed in April 2002, concerning explosive Trident rocket motor shipments, the Navy conceded it had lost the case. The Navy then paid attorney fees and reclassified the documents exempt under national security. This case and another filed in March 2003, involving accident assessments for explosive material at the Bangor submarine base, are still pending.

In December 2002, a FOIA request by Glen Milner revealed the Navy has been firing 20mm depleted uranium rounds into prime fishing waters off the coast of Washington State during routine calibration and testing of the Navy's Close-In Weapons System (CIWS). Numerous FOIA requests have shown the Navy is not in compliance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing agreements. A preliminary complaint has been filed with the NRC. Our goal is a NEPA lawsuit and injunction against the Navy over the firing of depleted uranium rounds into U.S. waters.

For information on our lawsuit against the U.S. Navy visit www.gzcenter.org. Organizations involved are Waste Action Project, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Peace and Justice Alliance, all based in Seattle, Washington; Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Washington; and Cascadia Wildlands Project in Eugene, Oregon.

Dave Mann is an environmental attorney in Seattle. Glen Milner ought to be one.

T-Shirts, bumperstickers, postcards, and donations



Hefty T's -Purple with white lettering
 Front: We All Can Live Without Trident
 Back: Nobody needs a nuclear weapon
 Sizes: ONLY 2 Smalls, 4 Meds., & 7 Larges
 Left!!!
 \$14 ea., 2 for \$25, or \$10 ea. for 5+



We All Can Live Without Trident postcards
 \$0.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

NEW!



NEW! 3 x 12" Bumpersticker. White and red on blue.
 Price: 1-10: \$1.00 ea.; 11-100: \$.50 ea.; 101+ \$.25 ea.



Hefty T's -White with black lettering
 Front: Resist Trident-Abolish Nuclear Weapons
 Back: Sow the Seeds of Peace
 Sizes: ONLY ONE LARGE LEFT!!!
 \$14



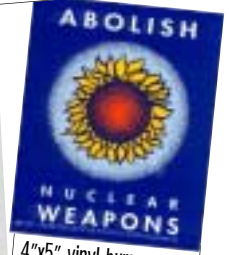
Abolish Nuclear Weapons-Resist Trident postcards
 \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

NEW!

Transform this to this with just a snip!



NEW! Buttons: Red, white, & blue, \$1.00 ea.
 Bumperstickers: 4 x 5", red, white, & blue, \$1.00 ea.



4"x5" vinyl bumper sticker; white lettering on dark blue background with yellow sunflower in the middle. Price: \$.25ea., 10 for \$2, or 50 for \$10.



Your orders and donations to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action are helping build the Trident Resistance Network and a **growing movement** to resist Trident and abolish nuclear weapons. **Each dollar** you send to Ground Zero helps build this movement by paying for phone calls, postage, printing, networking expenses, organizing, utilities, and more.

Quantity	Size for shirts	Color for shirts (purple or white)	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt, \$1.50 per 10 postcards or bumper stickers, or \$2/10 buttons.				SHIPPING =	
We request US funds from all our supporters. <i>This helps save bank charges.</i>				TOTAL =	

Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
 Enclosed is my contribution to the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund (BEDF) \$ _____
 Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Bangor on the first Thursday of these months: _____
 Please send me _____ free Trident Campaign Organizing Packets.
 Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.
 I have these skills I'd be willing to share in the work of Ground Zero: _____
 I would like to become a member of a committee: house & grounds newsletter mailings special events website _____ (specify)

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State/Prov: _____
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Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370
 Phone: 360-779-4672 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Annual Ground Zero Membership Meeting:

Mark your calendars: October 11, 9am-5pm, Ground Zero

Please come to the annual Ground Zero Community membership meeting for reflection and renewal on Saturday, October 11, 2003. It is also a time for new proposals for peace and justice.

Work party on the house and grounds begins at 9 am. Potluck lunch at noon. General membership meeting is 1 pm to 5 pm. All are invited. Please do not feel you have to work if you come early. Hang out with friends and walk the beautiful grounds of Ground Zero!

The annual meeting was one of the matters decided at the November 23, 2002 Ground Zero membership meeting regarding the organizational structure of Ground Zero.

Decisions of the Stewardship Council and committees would be by consensus and in accord with the Mission Statement, which reads, "Founded in 1977, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the meaning and practice of nonviolence from a perspective of deep spiritual reflection, providing a means for witnessing to and resisting all nuclear weapons, especially Trident. We seek to go to the root of violence and injustice in our world and experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action."

All positions of the Stewardship Council, including Secre-

tary, Treasurer, Chairperson and committee positions, will be chosen or renewed at the annual meeting for the next year. Current committees include direct action and events, leafleting, house and grounds, media, legal, newsletter, website, and fundraising. There are several "at large" positions on the Council. One is currently held by Jackie Hudson. Jackie will continue in this position, offering us support and advice as she is able, while in prison.

All positions of the Stewardship Council, including Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson and committee positions, will be chosen or renewed at the annual meeting for the next year.

The purpose of the Stewardship Council and committee positions is to divide the responsibilities and work of Ground Zero into manageable sections. We all help one another in the process. The Council meets once a month, alternating monthly between meetings in Seattle and the Ground Zero house. The meetings are open to all members.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is part of a larger peace community in the Pacific Northwest that extends across geographic boundaries, gender, race and time. We invite all to come and share your ideas for a peaceful world community and to continue resistance to the Trident nuclear submarine system.

Hope to see you there, whether you've come to Ground Zero before or are coming for the first time!

GROUND ZERO

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It costs Ground Zero about **\$20 per year** to send you this quarterly newsletter. While we don't charge a subscription fee, we would like to ask you to consider making a donation to **help cover the cost** of producing, printing, and mailing you the GZ newsletter. Use the enclosed envelope and **mail in a donation today!**

Thank you for your generosity!